

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03256 020757Z

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 SP-02 OMB-01 TRSY-01 ACDA-10 /050 W

-----021831Z 028141 /43

R 011653Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9489

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3256

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE VANDEN BOEYNANTS FOR NATO
SECRETARY GENERAL?

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. PUBLIC DISCUSSION HAS BEGUN IN BELGIUM OF DEFENSE MINISTER
PAUL VANDEN BOEYNANTS AS A PROSPECTIVE SUCCESSOR TO JOSEPH LUNS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03256 020757Z

AS NATO SECGEN. THE POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN BRUITED FOR SOME WEEKS,
MOVING INTO THE REALM OF SERIOUS SPECULATION MARCH 23 WHEN AN
ARTICLE ON VANDEN BOEYNANTS' PRESUMED CANDIDACY APPEARED IN THE
USUALLY WELL-INFORMED SATIRICAL WEEKLY, PAN. SINCE THEN SEVERAL OTHER
NATIONAL CIRCULATION PAPERS HAVE TAKEN UP THE SUBJECT.

END UNCLASSIFIED

2. WE CANNOT CONFIRM THAT VANDEN BOEYNANTS HAS SET HIS CAP FOR LUNS JOB. BUT A NUMBER OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES SUGGEST THAT WE ARE WATCHING A TRIAL BALLOON FLOATING IN THE AIR. THESE ARE:

A. SOME TOP BELGIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE LONG BEEN DISSATISFIED WITH LUNS' PERFORMANCE. THEY BELIEVE THE ALLIANCE NEEDS A STRONGER HAND IN THE SECGEN SLOT.

B. VANDEN BOEYNANTS - AGGRESSIVE, INTELLIGENT, ENERGETIC, HIGHLY KNOWLEDGEABLE IN EUROPEAN AND NATO AFFAIRS, A FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF A SMALL NATO COUNTRY - HAS SOME OF THE ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB.

C. DOMESTICALLY VANDEN BOEYNANTS' POLITICAL CAREER HAS PEAKED, AND THE TIME WOULD SEEM PROPITIOUS FOR HIM TO SHIFT ONTO THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE. HIS CHANCES OF BECOMING PRIME MINISTER AGAIN ARE SLIGHT. CABINET PORTFOLIOS ARE OLD HAT TO HIM. A NEW GENERATION OF POLITICIANS IS COMING ON TO CHALLENGE HIS STANDING AS THE MR. BRUSSELS OF BELGIAN POLITICS. BUT HE REMAINS AMBITIOUS, COMPULSIVELY ACTIVE AND DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE ISSUES NATO DEALS WITH.

D. VANDEN BOEYNANTS RECENTLY MADE A WELL-PUBLICIZED ENLISTMENT IN A LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP (HAIG), WHICH SUGGESTS THAT HS IS UPDATING HIS IMAGE ON TOPICAL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

E. ONE OF HIS CLOSEST COLLABORATORS HAS TOLD US THAT THE SPATE OF PUBLICITY WAS NOT A VANDEN BOEYNANTS PLANT BUT CAREFULLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03256 020757Z

AVOIDED SAYING THAT VDB WAS NOT INTERESTED IN THE JOB.RENNER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, NOMINATION, SECRETARY GENERAL, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE03256
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770115-0190
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704100/aaaaditm.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d4e8b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2661904
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE VANDEN BOEYNANTS FOR NATO SECRETARY GENERAL? BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, PORO, BE, NATO, (VANDEN BOEYNANTS, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d4e8b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009